

MAY 09 2006

PAGE 3/18 \* RCVD AT 5/9/2006 2:36:36 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] \* SVR:USPTO-EFAXRF-2/10 \* DNIS:2738300 \* CSID:4048156118 \* DURATION (mm-ss):04-48

**Patents**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

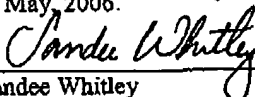
APPLICANTS:           Shea, et al.  
SERIAL NO.:           10/083,093           GROUP ART UNIT:   3733  
FILED:                February 26, 2002       EXAMINER:           Ramana, A.  
FOR:                 Locking System for Implants

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 10557/266546  
DATE: May 9, 2006

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this document, together with any document referred to as enclosed or attached, is being forwarded to the Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313, via facsimile on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2006.

  
Sandee Whitley

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**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of January 23, 2006, the advisory action of April 10, 2006, and in connection with the RCE filed herewith, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 12 of this paper.